KPFA News 28 Mar 72
transcribed from tape

Report by Denise Bourdet, Pacifica Washington Bureau:

Two conflicting analyses of an International Telephone and Telegraph memorandum were apparently made at the same place, according to ITT officials - at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

An ITT spokesman said last night that the company experts were permitted to conduct their own tests on the memo while it was in the custody of the FBI. The memo, allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita Beard, is the only known evidence that a connection may have existed between the Justice Department settlement of three anti-trust cases against ITT and a $400,000 ITT pledge to the Republican national convention.

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Anderson gave the memo to the Senate Judiciary Committee ... [which] sent the memo to the FBI for an analysis. [J. Edgar Hoover] reported last week that his experts found nothing to indicate that the paper was a forgery. The FBI did report that the document had been typed on Dita Beard's typewriter at the ITT Washington office and that ink tests showed it could well have been written on June 25th, 1971, the date on which it was alleged to have been written.

Hoover returned the memo to the Judiciary Committee. ITT officials then announced that the company had employed two experts in the field of "questioned documents" to conduct an independent test of the memo's authencity. The ITT experts said the memo had probably been written in January of 1972, a clear implication that the document was a fraud.

A member of the Judiciary Committee staff expressed surprise this week that the ITT experts had had access to the memo, since it has been in the custody of either Jack Anderson, the committee or the FBI for several weeks. Last night ITT officials in New York said the FBI had permitted the company experts to examine and test the memo at the FBI. The ITT spokesman also said the company had given "certain documents relative to the authencity of the memo" to the FBI. Those documents have not been identified by either the FBI or the Judiciary Committee.

An FBI public information officer refused to comment on the ITT statement this afternoon. The FBI spokesman would not confirm that company experts had been allowed to conduct their own tests at the Bureau, nor would he comment on the propriety of permitting such outside analyses in general.

Committee chairman James Eastland said today FBI officials had asked him whether the ITT experts could test the documents. Eastland said he told them the decision should be made by the FBI but added that he saw nothing wrong with allowing such tests.

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